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REMARKS

In view of the following discussion, the Applicants submit that none of the claims now pending in the application is anticipated under the provisions of 35 U.S.C. § 102. Thus, the Applicants believe that all of these claims are now in allowable form.

I. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 22-34 UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner has rejected claims 22-34 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by the Mahany patent (United States Patent No. 5,960,344, issued on September 28, 1999, hereinafter "Mahany"). The Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Mahany teaches a local area network (LAN) having multiple channel wireless access. Specifically, the LAN includes an access point, a plurality of wireless roaming devices, a first wireless communication channel and a second wireless communication channel. The first wireless communication channel supports communication flow via the LAN, while the second wireless communication channel is used to manage the flow of communications through the first wireless communication channel.

The Examiner's attention is directed to the fact that Mahany fails to teach, show or suggest the novel invention of communicating using a first, point-to-point medium to configure the use of a second, shared medium, as claimed in Applicants' independent claim 22. Specifically, Applicants' independent claim 22 positively recites:

22. A method for managing communications over a plurality of networked devices, the method comprising:
exchanging a first communication between a first networked device and a second networked device over a point-to-point medium; and
configuring, via said first communication, a use of a shared medium by at least said second networked device. (Emphasis added)

The Applicants' invention is directed to a method of combining specialized, spatially distinguished point-to-point communications with other wireless networking communications to provide networking configuration in classroom-like settings. In

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current teaching practice, there is an emphasis placed on the teacher's ability to interact directly with students, assign problems or tasks that are unique to specific students or groups of students and to move about the classroom while students are engaged in their work. There is also a decreased emphasis on teachers lecturing from a single location in the classroom. It is expected that in this manner, teachers may obtain a better sense of the progress that the students are making in their learning. However, this also makes the management of assigned tasks, access permissions, document flow, student responses and other work flow concerns more complicated. It is infeasible for a teacher to become a system administrator (e.g., assigning access permissions, group names and the like) in addition to his or her other responsibilities.

The Applicants' invention enables a teacher to manage the use of electronic communication devices by students using a combination of specialized, spatially distinguished point-to-point communications and other wireless networking communications. For example, a teacher may wish to assign a capability to a student, such as the capability to use a particular network resource (e.g., a printer). To do so, the teacher may initiate a first communication between his or her device and the student's device using a first communication medium (e.g., a point-to-point medium), in order to convey the desired capability. The teacher may then initiate a second communication between his or her device and the network resource in a similar manner. These two communications over the first communication medium enable a third communication (possibly subject to certain limitations conveyed in the first and second communications), between the student's device and the network resource, over a second communication medium (e.g., a shared medium). The communication over the second communication medium is thus "configured" via the communications over the first communication medium. In this manner, the teacher can easily manage the student's use of the network and associated resources.

By contrast, Mahany does not distinguish between such a first communication medium and a second communication medium. In particular, Mahany does not teach configuring the use of a shared medium via communications over a point-to-point medium.

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The Applicants' invention, as discussed above, explicitly teaches that communications over a point-to-point medium (e.g., a medium for directed, one-to-one communications) are used to enable communications between two or more devices over a shared medium (e.g., a medium in which all messages are heard by all transceivers within range). Nowhere does Mahany teach, show or suggest any use of a point-to-point communication medium. The portions of Mahany that the Examiner cites to support the rejection at most teach that a network access point including two radio transceivers (operating over two wireless channels) can communicate with devices coupled to a wired LAN and can select which transceiver to use for an incoming transmission based on which transceiver is receiving a higher quality signal. There is no mention of using a point-to-point medium, or the fact that a first type of communication medium is employed to configure transmissions over a second, different type of communication medium.

Mahany thus fails to teach, show or suggest a method of communicating using a first communication medium (e.g., a point-to-point medium) to configure the use of a second communication medium (e.g., a shared medium), as claimed in Applicants' independent claim 22. Therefore, the Applicants submit that independent claim 22 fully satisfies the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §102 and is patentable thereunder.

Dependent claims 23-34 depend from claim 22 and recite additional features therefore. As such, and for at least the same reasons set forth above, the Applicants submit that claims 23-34 are not made anticipated by the teachings of Mahany. Therefore, the Applicants submit that dependent claims 23-34 also fully satisfy the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §102 and are patentable thereunder.

II. NEW CLAIMS

The Applicants have added new claims 35-47. Claims 35-47 present computer readable medium versions of the method claims recited in previously added claims 22-34.

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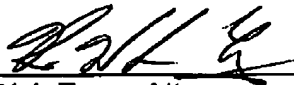
III. CONCLUSION

Thus, the Applicants submit that all of the presented claims now fully satisfy the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §102. Consequently, the Applicants believe that all of the presented claims are presently in condition for allowance. Accordingly, both reconsideration of this application and its swift passage to issue are earnestly solicited.

If, however, the Examiner believes that there are any unresolved issues requiring the maintenance of the final action in any of the claims now pending in the application, it is requested that the Examiner telephone Mr. Kin-Wah Tong, Esq. at (732) 530-9404 so that appropriate arrangements can be made for resolving such issues as expeditiously as possible.

Respectfully submitted,

Date

10/27/05
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